

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-33 remain in the application and are pending. Applicants include herewith a version of the paragraphs from the specification and the claims showing changes made by the current amendment.

Paragraphs [0020] and [0044] in the specification and claims 7 and 20 have been amended to correct the concentration units for the branching monomer from mole percent to weight percent, an error that was inadvertently overlooked by the applicants. Applicants believe that these changes do not introduce any new matter and that the specification and claims, as originally filed, fully support for the amendment. For example, paragraphs [0020] and [0044], claims 6 and 19 (on which claims 7 and 20, respectively, depend), and independent claims 12 and 32 disclose a concentration range of branching monomer, as a weight percentage of the total weight of the polyester, which encompasses the concentration range of branching monomer of the present amendment. In addition, the working examples specify the concentration of branching monomer as a weight percentage, again within the concentration range of the amendment. Finally, paragraph [0011] of the specification states that the ranges given in the disclosure and the claims are intended to include the entire range specifically and not just the endpoint(s). Applicants believe, therefore, that the range of concentrations originally disclosed for the branching monomer in both the specification and the claims provides full support for the amendment and shows that applicants, at the time of filing, were in full possession of the invention as presently claimed.

Claims 1-33 are believed to be in patentable form. Entry of the amendments and action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric D. Middlemas
Registration No. 53,325

January 13, 2004
Date

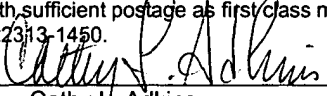
Eastman Chemical Company
P.O. Box 511
Kingsport, Tennessee 37662
Phone: (423) 229-6427
FAX: (423) 229-1239

Docket: 80063
Appl. No.: 10/722,870
Prelim. Amdt. dated January 13, 2004

PATENT

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Cathy L. Adkins


Date